

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2705 without my signature.

This bill would increase the threshold that distinguishes petty theft from grand theft.

The threshold is a minimum value that allows district attorneys to charge a defendant with a greater offense and greater punishment if the value is exceeded. In practice, district attorneys use their discretion when reviewing theft cases to determine the severity of the crime, so that the charge matches the offense. The increase in the threshold would make it more difficult to appropriately charge a defendant for a theft that deserved a greater punishment.

For this reason I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger